

TANZANIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY AND MALARIA INDICATOR SURVEY (2022 TDHS-MIS)

Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality includes deaths of women during pregnancy, delivery, and within 42 days of delivery excluding deaths that were due to accidents or violence.

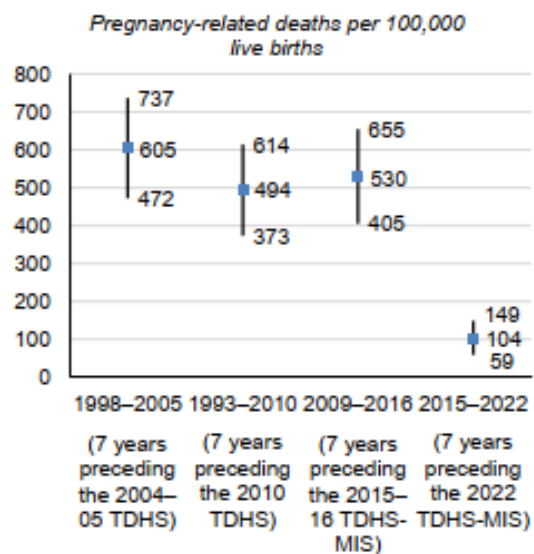
According to the 2022 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS), the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) for Tanzania is 104 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births for the seven-year period before the survey. The confidence

interval for the 2022 TDHS-MIS MMR ranges from 59 to 149 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Estimates of maternal mortality are also available from Tanzania's population and housing censuses. Similar to the survey data, census data show evidence of a decrease in maternal mortality.

Census estimates of the MMR decreased from 432 deaths per 100,000 live births in the 2012 census to 194 in the 2022 census. The estimation procedures used in TDHS-MIS surveys and censuses are different. The TDHS uses the sisterhood method while the population census uses the growth balance method; thus, the estimates are not strictly comparable. The reference periods for the 2022 TDHS-MIS and the 2022 census are also different. The 2022 TDHS-MIS estimate includes deaths in the 7 years preceding the survey, while the census estimate includes deaths in the preceding 12 months. The large declines in the MMR observed in both data sources provide strong evidence that maternal mortality is decreasing.

Trends in pregnancy-related mortality ratio with confidence intervals



What are the Implications of the Findings?

The decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio as evidenced by the 2022 TDHS-MIS and the 2022 census results can be attributed to a number of factors, among others, improvement in ANC attendance, reduction in teenage pregnancies, increased delivery in health facilities and assisted delivery by health professionals. These have been possible as the country continue implementing policies and strategies that are more targeted to vulnerable population groups across the country. MMR decline is on course towards achieving the SDG target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

To sustain gains achieved, more efforts need to be done especially in strengthening health care delivery through building more infrastructures, invest in more diagnostics equipment and other health commodities, increasing the number of health care workers at the facilities which the government has constructed over the past few years. Increasing population call for increase in human resources and other essentials to provide quality services. Other non- health related infrastructures such as road network, in particular rural roads, access to energy and water are also key to reach the facility as well as smooth operation of the available facilities.